

Background:

The Council will review the minutes from the February 10, 2017, Council meeting and the February 9, 2017, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council — Agenda Item 3**Expected Action:**

The Council will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2017 — MINUTES

Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Council Chair
Hunter Adkins
Zack Ahonle, UT-CDS
Kimberly Blackmon
Juliet Charron, HHSC/Medicaid
Kristine Clark
Gladys Cortez
Kristen Cox
Mateo Delgado
Mary Faithfull, DRT
Sue Fielder, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Stephen Gersuk
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS/Maternal-
Child Health
Ruth Mason
Scott McAvoy
Michael Peace
Meagan Sumner, A&M —
CDD
Lora Taylor
David Taylor
John Thomas
Rick Tisch

Council Members Absent

Jennifer Kaut, TWC/Vocational
Rehabilitation
Dana Perry
Brandon Pharris
Ron Roberts, TEA/IDEA

Guests Present

Lisa Akers-Owen, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Isabel Evans
Alexandra Noble
Rona Statman
Dana Williamson, HHSC

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive
Director
Martha Cantu
Joanna Cordry
Cynthia Ellison
Danny Fikac
Ashley Ford
Jessica Ramos
Joshua Ryf
Koren Vogel

Call To Order

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Friday, February 10, 2017, in the Hill Country B Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, TX 78752. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests were introduced. It was noted that Lisa Akers-Owen is the new designated representative from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for the Older Americans Act program, however she has not been through orientation and is not eligible to vote. Alternate from that program Sue Fielder has been through orientation and is present as the voting member. Juliet Charron was also introduced as the new designated alternate from HHSC representing the Title XIX/Medicaid programs and she has attended orientation. Jami Snyder has been designated as the representative from that program but was not in attendance. Charron,

Akers-Owen, and Fielder provided background information about their positions and programs.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

3. Consent Items

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the November 4, 2016, Council meeting and November 3, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting and the excused absences of Jennifer Kaut, DARS; Dana Perry; Brandon Pharris; and Ron Roberts, TEA.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 3, 2016, Council meeting and November 2, 2016, Committee of the Whole meeting as well as the excused absences as noted.

MADE BY: Kris Clark

SECOND: Michael Peace

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Chair & Executive Director's Report

Chair Durham reviewed the policy for Council member absences and asked for members who have frequent absences to consider their position and if they are still able to meet their obligations. She reported that she and Executive Director Beth Stalvey met with Gaby Fuentes of the Governor's Appointments Office in late December and were informed that there are not many applications for the Council and several do not meet the criteria to serve. They further discussed DD Act requirements for geographic representation as well as membership that reflects the diversity of the state with respect to race and ethnicity. Outreach will continue for applicants and appointments will be considered on an ongoing basis. Members were encouraged to refer anyone who may be interested and Stalvey added that applications must be submitted to the Governor's office, however TCDD staff are happy to answer any questions from potential applicants and assist where appropriate.

Durham offered congratulations to Dalun Zhang, Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development, for his recent award of an AIDD Fellowship.

Members discussed their visits with legislators and staff at the Texas Capitol. Lora Taylor and Ruth Mason expressed their gratitude to TCDD staff for facilitating visits and preparing material about TCDD priorities. It was noted that legislative staff were receptive to employment issues and any additional data on TCDD employment projects would be helpful at future visits. Stalvey again offered staff support for any further visits

or advocacy efforts that members would like to make.

Stalvey recognized Cynthia Ellison for ten years of service and Jessica Ramos for five years of service to TCDD. She provided additional staff updates to note that Sonya Hosey is on extended medical leave and has applied for disability retirement status.

Applications have been received and interviews will be conducted for vacancies in the Grants Management division. She also noted that Megan Regis is no longer employed with TCDD as a Public Policy Specialist. Two interns have been selected to work part-time with TCDD on a contract basis in the public policy and communications areas.

Jeremy Cana is a senior at the University of Texas studying Government and Chris Frasier is a senior at St. Edwards studying Environmental Science and Policy. Stalvey also reported that due to a change in the administrative needs of the agency, Fernando Rodriguez will now serve as an Operations Assistant and will provide more general support to all divisions in addition to grants management and planning.

Stalvey reported that the Annual Program Performance Report was submitted on December 31, 2016. She provided highlights of the FY 2016 activities that were noted in the report including:

- A. Seven new executive summaries; eight new projects
- B. 25 organizations conducting 28 projects
- C. 15 original articles on disability related topics
- D. 477 families and 15 speakers supported through stipends
- E. Staff outreach at nine events to 427 people with 120 community stakeholders
- F. 52% increase in Facebook and social media outreach
- G. 37 transportation advocates
- H. 745 involved in health and fitness projects
- I. Over 150 students enrolled and supported in higher education
- J. Ten new products and over 1700 trained on Supported Decision Making

The Partners in Policymaking project has progressed to marketing to the public. Social media sites are available and the website is now live. Applications for participants will be accepted through May 1, 2017. The Project Advisory Group will assist the project team and TCDD staff members in the selection of class participants.

TCDD recently received an upgrade of leased computer equipment with updated software, coordinated through Texas Education Agency. Staff members are expanding their use the video-conference equipment including the GoToMeeting software. The Nominating Committee meeting was conducted with this technology and received positive feedback.

Upcoming conferences including the Disability Policy Seminar in March in Washington, DC and the NACDD Conference in July in Salt Lake City, UT. Members who wish to attend should contact Stalvey or Durham.

5. Election of Council Vice-Chair

Nominating Committee Chair Rick Tisch reported on Committee discussion and the recommendation of John Thomas as Council Vice-Chair. No other nominations were offered from the Council.

MOTION: To elect John Thomas as Council Vice-Chair.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch for the Nominating Committee. (motions from Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

6. Election of Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee

Tisch reported on Committee discussion and the recommendation to continue Michael Peace as the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee. No other nominations were offered from the Council.

MOTION: To elect Michael Peace as Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch for the Nominating Committee.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. Future Project Funding Priorities

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported that the Committee discussed the Future Project Funding Priorities document and with no new proposed projects for the quarter, there was no change in the priority to implement projects.

8. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion

Chair Durham reminded members that ongoing efforts to address disproportionalities and disparities will include discussions at each meeting. The focus of this quarter's discussion centered on disparities for English Language Learners (ELL) who need and/or receive special education services.

Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reported on that Committee discussion and Ruth Mason discussed her previous efforts to gain information on ELL students receiving special education. Mason became aware of a cultural hesitation to challenge authority so she submitted an Open Records Request to one school district in the Houston area and learned that no students in ELL classes were receiving special education services. She

plans to continue investigation and advocacy on this disparity. Meagan Sumbera of Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development discussed the potential impact for all school faculty by training school administrators in social justice with the expectation for them to set the tone on the campus. It was noted that a new training center for administrators is being established in Austin and could be a potential partner to provide this type of training.

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on that Committee discussion of Senate Bill 98 which would eliminate the requirement and funding for bilingual special education services and make it optional to provide services in the primary language for schools with 20 or more students speaking that language. The Committee discussed reports of school districts denying special education services to Vietnamese speaking students and the implication that these practices are in violation of federal law. The Committee directed staff to gather additional information for future discussion.

Executive Director Stalvey reported that in conjunction with the DD Network Partners, TCDD has applied to NACDD to participate in an academy that focuses on disparities and the application was focused on this specific topic of disparities of ELL students receiving special education.

9. Communications and Marketing Activities Report

Communications Director Joshua Ryf provided updates on communications activities from the past quarter. He discussed highlights of social media posts and noted that posts about cuts to Medicaid therapy rates and special education performance measures reached over 4,000 people. Ryf reviewed the marketing of grantee activities, noting that the Partners in Policymaking is now available on social media with a website that is now live and accepting applications. He reminded members that March is DD Awareness month and discussed the #SideBySideTx social media campaign where people are encouraged to share photos of individuals with disabilities participating in inclusive activities and to use the hashtag to include those photos in the campaign.

Ryf and Executive Assistant Koren Vogel discussed Vogel's recent trip to El Paso where she attended the Volar Center for Independent Living Conference and conducted focus groups with transition age students in the Socorro Independent School District and with adults at the Volar Center. Issues addressed in these focus groups included independent living skills, job training, and the need for better transportation, attendant care and vocational rehabilitation services.

Ryf reviewed various activities taking place from February to April and reminded members to share ideas, promote funding opportunities, recruit Council members, and encourage others to connect with TCDD via email and social media.

10. Executive Committee Report

Chair Durham reported new grant funding that was awarded during the Executive Committee meeting to SAFE Alliance, Mounting Horizons and Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (EPIC) for Youth Leadership Development projects. Seven event stipends and two speaker stipends were awarded this quarter.

The Committee approved two new individuals to the pool of potential Independent Review Panel members.

Operations Director Martha Cantu reviewed the quarterly financial reports and noted that administrative expenses for FY 2017 are on track for year-to-date expenditures with 22% of the budget spent. She reviewed the Summary of Funds report and noted that the negative balance for FY 2016 funds will not remain in the negative as staff have identified grant project that will not spend all allocated funds. The negative balance for FY 2017 will also not remain because funds are held for planned projects that have not been awarded. The Executive Committee members did not express any concerns with the agency financial reports.

The Committee reviewed Conflict of Interest disclosures and no concerns were noted.

Members were reminded that they will soon receive notification from the Texas Ethics Commission that Personal Financial Statements for 2016 will be due at the end of April. The form is currently available at the Texas Ethics Commission website. There is a \$500 fine for not submitting this information.

11. Project Development Committee Report

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on Committee discussion of project sustainability. Staff provided information to the Committee on discussions with past grantees regarding project success, barriers, ongoing activities and sustainability. Seven projects reported continued activities and it was noted that Project DOCC of Houston which ended in FY 2010 has not only expanded but has added additional partners.

12. Public Policy Committee Report

Public Policy Committee Chair Taylor reported on members' discussion of their current activities. Kris Clark discussed efforts to establish a continuing education program for adults with disabilities in the San Antonio area that is modeled after a program in Plano and is scheduled to begin in July. Public Policy Committee members also discussed Public Policy staff activities and reviewed legislation pending in the 85th Texas Legislature.

13. State Agency Representatives Quarterly Activities Report

Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) representative Mary Faithfull reported that DRTx is focused on the legislative session. She also noted that a revised IDEA manual is now available on the DRTx website with the Spanish translation in progress.

Texas Center for Disability Services (TCDS) representative Zack Ahonle reported that TCDS is writing the five-year strategic plan, has established a demonstration center for the Assistive Technology lab, and is developing a program on healthy weight and systemic change in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control.

A&M CDD representative Sumbera reported on activities within the four core functions in that program. She discussed replications of higher education models that will be implemented at ten universities in the future as part of the TCDD Higher Education Collaborative project. She also discussed a program entitled “Aggie Ability Awareness” that teaches disability history and awareness and has had a high level of interest and could be expanded to the graduate level. Sumbera also reported on the development of Person Centered Planning and Purposeful Life trainings.

HHSC/Medicaid alternate representative Juliet Charron reported that over 160,000 children have been enrolled in the STAR Kids program since its implementation in the fall of 2016. She also noted that revisions are being made to the Community First Choice assessment to maintain consistency across programs and that the Person Centered Planning website should be up in the next two weeks. Charron noted that an updated transition plan for Home and Community Based Services was submitted to the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 18, 2016 that focuses on day-habilitation services and changes to this service will be dependent on final budget appropriations.

HHSC/Older Americans Act representative Lisa Akers-Owen noted that she is excited to be able to leverage the available supports for their programs from HHSC following their transformation from the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)/Title V/Maternal Child Health alternate representative Ivy Goldstein reported that the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CHSCN) Systems Development Group continues with contracts for ongoing needs assessments, case management, and family services.

14. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed dates and locations of future meetings of May 3–5, 2017 (Sheraton Georgetown), August 24, 2017 (Hilton Austin Airport), November 1–3, 2017 and February 7–9, 2018.

Adjourn

Council Chair Durham adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE February 9, 2017 — MINUTES

Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Council Chair
Hunter Adkins
Kimberly Blackmon
Kristine Clark
Gladys Cortez
Kristen Cox
Mateo Delgado
Stephen Gersuk
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS/Maternal
and Child Health
Ruth Mason
Scott McAvoy
Michael Peace
Dana Perry
Ron Roberts, TEA/IDEA
Amy Sharp, UT CDS
Meagan Sumner, A&M CDD
David Taylor
Lora Taylor
Richard Tisch
John Thomas

Council Members Absent

Lisa Akers-Owen, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Jennifer Kaut, TWC/Vocational
Rehabilitation
Dana Perry
Brandon Pharris
Jami Snyder, HHSC/Medicaid

Guests Present

Jan Brown, JAS
Isabel Evans
Ted Johnson, JAS
Mike Mason
William Mason
Alexandra Noble
Jason Sabo

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive
Director
Joanna Cordry
Danny Fikac
Ashley Ford
Linda Logan
Jessica Ramos
Joshua Ryf
Koren Vogel

Call To Order

The Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, February 9, 2017, in the Hill Country B Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, TX 78752. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were offered. Members provided personal updates. It was noted that the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities is seeking help with a video on accessible parking. Contract staff from Johnson Applied Solutions reported that the Texas Partners in Policymaking website is live and applications for the program are available and will be accepted until May 1, 2017.

3. **Review of Public Policy Priorities**

Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos provided background information for members in preparation for legislative visits scheduled that afternoon. She discussed the budget proposals including the differences in appropriations bills filed by the Senate and the House of Representatives. She noted that the biennial revenue estimate is \$105 billion but the cost to maintain the current level of services is \$109 billion and factoring in growth sees an increase to \$111 billion. So there is an essential \$6 billion shortfall. The legislature will have to consider options such as cost containment and utilizing the “Rainy Day” fund to cover the shortfall.

Ramos discussed the “elevator speech” strategy when making legislative visits and reviewed the materials that TCDD staff prepared to support members. The materials include documents that can be left behind with legislative staff on key TCDD priorities such as Employment, State Supported Living Center Consolidation and Closure, and Interest List Reduction. Ramos reviewed general discussion points on each of these topics.

4. **Public Policy Advocacy Strategies**

Jason Sabo of Frontera Strategy discussed the current political climate of the 85th Texas Legislature. He noted that divisions with the legislature are more within the Senate and House of Representatives than the political parties. He reviewed the emergency priorities of the Governor as well as the select priorities of the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House noting that those priorities are vastly different. Sabo also discussed the state budget and reminded members that 84% of general revenue is spent on education and health and human services which makes the request for additional funding for those programs unpopular with legislators. He noted that a primary question will be if the legislature is willing to access the “Rainy Day” fund to pay for services.

Sabo provided his recommendations for effective advocacy during the 85th Texas Legislature including developing a practical approach with realistic expectations. He suggested building credible research (e.g., how many individuals with IDD are employed) and was complimentary on the TCDD legislative material provided for members. He acknowledged that members were a resource and encouraged them to offer their experiences to legislative staff and to be persistent in requesting follow-up or subsequent visits.

Adjourn

Members were reminded of transportation options to the Texas Capitol. Council Chair Durham adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 1:00 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date